

INDOOR CARNIVAL & VENDOR FAIR: Highland Parks & Recreation will host an indoor carnival and vendor fair for special needs individuals from **1 TO 3 P.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 29** at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. See you there!

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2017

ON THE HORIZON IN 2017

Following a solid year of discussion and planning, Councilman Dan Vassar is looking for 2017 to be a year of implementation. "We have investors looking at Highland as an ideal location," Vassar said. "As a council, we need to look at planning for the future. What was the highest and best use of some of our land 40 years ago may not be highest and best use today."

SANITARY AGREEMENT

Following years of debate over sewer rates and effluent flows, Hammond and Highland are forging a relationship based on fairness for both communities. Sanitary rates are expected to increase, but not as much as they would have if the town had been forced to build above-ground storage containers. Expected to be finalized early in 2017, the proposed agreement will provide additional safeguards against flooding.

NEW TOWN HALL

The Town Council is wrestling with a decision on where to build a new town hall. The general consensus: the building has served its purpose. Building anew will be based on function and geography. The council favors investing in downtown and is eyeing several proposed locations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nine acres along Main Street west of Indianapolis Boulevard is being eyed for private development as an office park and boutique hotel by veterinary surgeon Claude Gendreau, who wants to rezone the land from residential to a Business Planned Unit Development.



PARKS & RECREATION

Three Parks and Recreation grants will come to fruition this year, paving the way for:

- ✓ Pedestrian crossing along 45th at the bike path
- ✓ Way-finding signage, mile markers and identification signs along the bike trail
- ✓ Database of trees located on public property

Also on tap for 2017 is a skate park at Sheppard Park, resurfaced tennis courts at Brantwood and Meadows, as well as additional accessible pathways and sidewalks throughout the parks.

INSIDE

Check out the many successes achieved throughout the Town of Highland in 2016. **PAGE 2**

RECYCLABLES COLLECTION

The 2017 recyclables collection schedule inside this month's water bill contains dates for collection in your neighborhood.



SNOW PARKING BAN

Town ordinance makes it clear that cars must be off the roads when one inch of snow falls.

Public Works takes pride in its snow removal and strives to complete its task without delay or detrimental impact to residents. We understand sometimes we may not meet your expectations or miss something. Please call public works at (219) 972-5083.

SNOW REMOVAL MANNERS: The town noise ordinance bans the use of snowblowers and snowplows in residential neighborhoods between midnight and 6 a.m. If you contract for snow removal, please schedule your service between 6 a.m. and midnight to avoid disturbing your neighbors.



CALLING ALL CONTRACTORS! TOWN THEATRE BIDS DUE THIS MONTH

Morris Architects and the Redevelopment Commission will be presenting plans for a revamped Town Theatre to the public during the Town Council's Jan. 23 meeting.

The Town Theatre presentation will be the only item on the agenda.

Following two years of discussing the nuances of the project both great and small, Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said the com-

mission is proud to show the council how a renovated theatre can transform the landscape.

"I am most excited about reaching this point after working with committed volunteers who have given hours of hard work," Petro said.

"They believe the Town Theatre will make Highland an even better place to live, work and visit," she said. "Without them, there wouldn't be a Town Theatre project."

DOCUMENTS & DEADLINES

Highland is accepting bids for the Town Theater Renovation Project. Please email David Burns at dburns@morrisap.com to request a complete set of bid documents. Hard copies are due noon January 16, when they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

INFO: highland.in.gov.

PART-TIME JOB OPENING

The Building and Inspection Department is looking for a part-time Electrical Inspector. Practical experience as an electrician, working knowledge of residential/commercial electrical systems and an understanding of the National Electric Code are required. Applicants must be a Highland resident. Applications are available at Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, and are due by January 13.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at our monthly neighborhood watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JAN. 11**

WHERE: HPD Community Room

INFO: Please call Officer Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - president
bzemen@comcast.net
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WARD 2

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WARD 3

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WARD 4

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WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER - vice president
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

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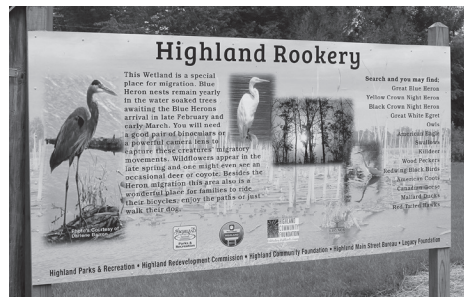
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OUR 2016 SUCCESSES

Highland started the year with a full agenda and crossed off dozens of projects on the town to-do list throughout the year. Along the way, streets were rebuilt, park safety enhanced, dangerous buildings bulldozed and the arts enhanced. Investors stepped in to repurpose the vintage and made tracks to pick up newly available vacant lots.

PLANNING & ZONING

The Building Department, Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals were hopping with projects that began on the eastern edge of town when Peoples Bank built a branch on the former McDonald's property on Ridge Road and continued with the construction of Hillside Funeral Home and Cremation Center on Kleinman Road and the new Vyto's Pharmacy on what once was Finke's on Kennedy Avenue.



REDEVELOPMENT

The Redevelopment Commission made it a baker's dozen of Facade Improvement Grants in 2016. As a result, business owners contributed \$428,000 in upgrades to their storefronts since the program began. More than two years after Highland Main Street began looking to increase accessibility to the rookery trail, which sits atop a berm on the south side of the Little Calumet River, a paved access trail and parking area are now complete.



HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solid year of construction resulted in the town's first public building project in five years. The Police Department's new digs quickly became a jewel along Ridge Road, a daily reminder the town takes crime-fighting seriously. Inside, the building is functioning even better than Police Chief Pete Hojnicky and his department had hoped.



HIGHLAND PUBLIC WORKS

A major water project that disrupted traffic along Kennedy Avenue for the better part of two building seasons was completed — in time for the Twilight Parade. Replacing pipes so large a car can easily drive through them necessitated lane restrictions as did the new interceptor at Highway and Kennedy. The payoff: water main breaks should be few and far between.

ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT

Arts and culture took a giant leap forward with a challenge grant that led to the painting of the town's first outdoor mural by Liz Mares, as well as the naming of Poet Laureate Lily Rex. Industrial artist Randy Simko was selected to create a sculpture as the town's next public art piece.

TOWN-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Highland made history when the School Town sold bonds for capital improvements that included a 20-year pledge from the town to assist with repayment. The council made the commitment as a way to reduce the cost of the project to taxpayers. The brainchild of Town Councilman Mark Herak and School Board Member Carol Green-Fraley, the agreement is the first in the state.

PARKS & RECREATION

Highland Parks and Recreation began the year with the completion of a new, ADA-accessible fishing pier/retaining wall at Meadows Pond and followed that with construction of a new parking lot on the north end of Sheppard Park to accommodate Highland Soccer Club games. With enhanced safety in mind, parks installed lightning warning systems in the six busiest parks — Meadows, Markley, Sheppard, Main Square and Homestead parks along with Sharp Athletic Complex.

COMMUNITY TREE PROGRAM

Ever pondered the number of redbud trees planted on town property within Highland's 6.96 square miles? Maybe you're just itching to find out the number of lace leaf maples or sturdy oaks providing cooling canopy in the summer.

Later in 2017, the town's first tree inventory and management plan will provide the answers to those questions – and more.

Highland Community Foundation and the town teamed up to secure a matching grant of \$40,000 to conduct the study from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Results will provide useful information, such as where tree roots might be causing underground headaches. The management plan will detail where it might be best to add a few saplings to help soak up torrential rains that would otherwise overwhelm storm sewers and ponds.

"The inventory will identify where tree roots are migrating into sewers and up-ending sidewalks," Public Works Director John Bach said. "New plantings will filter contaminants from storm water before it flows back into the water supply."

THE PROGRAM

The tree inventory will be conducted on town property by forestry experts under the direction of Former Foundation Secretary Richard Underkofler. Parks and Recreation Superintendent Alex Brown is representing the town for its responsibilities pertaining to the grant.

As part of the project, data will be analyzed to develop a community tree management plan with goals to increase canopy cover and filter/reduce storm water runoff that flows to Lake Michigan via ditches to the Little Calumet River.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Parks and Recreation Superintendent Alex Brown at (219) 838-0114 or abrown@highland.in.gov.



BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

It's time to register for the Highland Babe Ruth and Travel League.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JAN. 28** and **FEB. 11 and 25.**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

FEE: \$200 per player

NOTE: Players MUST turn 13 by April 30, 2017 or 19 after December 31, 2016 and reside in Lake County. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call Babe Ruth League President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or e-mail highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.



LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Boys and girls can register now for the following Little League divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A, Majors.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JAN. 21,**

FEB. 4 and 18, MARCH 4

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by August 31, 2016 and reside or go to school in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

REGISTRATION: Forms available online at www.highlandll.com.

INFO: Call HLL President Bob Johnsen at (219) 718-1236 or email info@highlandll.com.



SOCCER CLUB REGISTRATION

Spring registration starts in January each year and must be closed by early February in order for teams to be created and declared to the Northwest Indiana Soccer League.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **JAN. 14, 21, 28**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall

TRAVEL TEAMS: The travel league consists of players ages 8 through 14. All players must provide a wallet-sized picture. New players must show proof of age and purchase a uniform – jersey, shorts, socks – from the club.

IN-HOUSE TEAMS: The in-house league consists of players ages 3 through 14, divided into three age divisions. It does not promote competition and no statistics or game scores are kept. All players receive trophies/medals.

FEES: \$75 in person or online. \$100 late registration after **JAN. 29.** \$5 early-bird discount before **JAN. 14.**

INFO: Visit www.highlandsoccer.org.

JUNIOR PAINT WORKSHOPS

Trained Instructor Heather Leddy will lead youth - ages 7 through 12 - step-by-step as they paint their own 12" x 12" canvas. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required.

WHEN: noon Saturdays. **JAN. 14** (Snow Globe). **FEB. 11** (Love Pop).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$15 residents / \$18 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348025

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

CANVAS PAINT WORKSHOPS

Trained Instructor Heather Leddy will show you step-by-step how to paint your own 16" x 20" canvas. It's a fun, stress-free class. No experience is required. Ages 13 and older.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturdays. **JAN. 14** (Let It Snow).

FEB. 11 (I Love You Because ...).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 349003

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

YOUTH OPEN DODGEBALL

This after-school program features open play dodgeball with foam balls. An instructor will be on hand to explain the rules of the game, form teams and help officiate matches. Ages 7 to 14.

WHEN: 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, **JAN. 11** through

FEB. 8 and **FEB. 22** through **MARCH 22**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 114001

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

BIDDY BOWLING

Biddy Bowling is a non-instructional five-week program for boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Join us for a game of bumper bowling each week!

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, **JAN. 28** through **FEB. 25**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave.

FEE: \$36 residents / \$39 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 150001

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **JAN. 26** at Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads and their daughters - ages 5 and older - are invited to enjoy dancing, light refreshments and DJ entertainment at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Photographers provide one free photo. Extra photos are available for purchase.

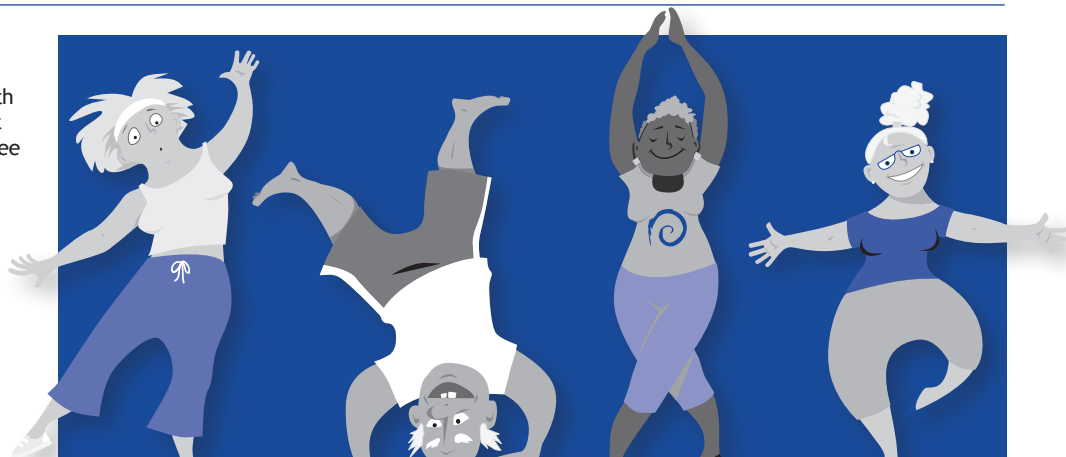
WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, **FEB. 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse

FEE THROUGH FEB. 5: \$20/\$25 couple and \$10/\$12.50 additional daughter

LATE FEE FEB. 6-9: \$25/\$30 couple and \$12.50/\$15 additional daughter. No tickets will be sold the day of the dance.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.



FITNESS FUN

Commit to a healthier you in 2017. Join the Lincoln Fitness Center and enjoy our state-of-the-art equipment and facility. From Zumba to aerobics, we have something for everyone.

SilverSneakers

Lincoln Fitness Center is now an official location for SilverSneakers, the nation's leading fully-funded Medicare exercise program for adults 65 and older.

If you have a SilverSneakers membership, you are eligible for a pass to our fitness center and free registration for these SilverSneakers classes that begin in January:

SilverSneakers Classic

Enjoy a variety of exercises to increase muscular strength and range of movement for functional daily living.

WHEN: 8-8:45 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays

SilverSneakers CardioFit

This fun, low-impact class is designed to increase your energy and strength.

WHEN: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday-Thursday

SilverSneakers Yoga

Relaxing exercises, breathing and meditation restore good health.

WHEN: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Personal Training

Commit to fitness with a personal trainer. Get one-on-one attention with the New Client Special: three personal training sessions for \$99.

Refer a Friend

Do you know someone who is considering or would benefit from a Lincoln Community Center Fitness Membership? Visit highlandparks.org/fitnesscenter to fill out a form and we'll send an invitation for a free 24-hour trial pass to your friend. Limit one per user of free trial pass. You must be a member to refer a friend.

More Information

Call Lincoln Community Center (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandpark.org.